

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14 (cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L~~, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) a ~~TACI~~ protein, wherein said ~~TACI~~ protein comprises comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (b) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; or
 - (c) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 9075% identical to SEQ ID NO:1;
wherein said polypeptides and fragments of (i) (a), (b) and (c) bind ~~TACI-L~~ SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (ii) a ~~TACI-L~~ protein, wherein said ~~TACI-L~~ protein comprises comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (b) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; or
 - (c) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 9075% identical to SEQ ID NO:3;
wherein said polypeptides and fragments of (ii) (a), (b) and (c) bind ~~TACI~~ SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (iii) a the test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the ~~TACI~~ protein of (i) and the ~~TACI-L~~ protein of (ii),

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the ~~TACI~~ protein of (i) and the ~~TACI-L~~ protein of (ii) is identified.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the ~~TACI~~ proteins of (i) and the ~~TACI-L~~ proteins of (ii) is labeled with a detectable moiety.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein both the TACI protein of (i) and (ii)and the TACI-L protein are soluble.
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein both the soluble TACI protein of (i) and the soluble TACI-L protein of (ii) are labeled with a detectable moiety.
19. (Previously added) The method of claim 15 wherein the test compound is an antibody.
20. (Previously added) The method of claim 19 wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.
21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the composition is formed by adding the test compound to ~~a composition comprising the TACI~~ the protein of (i) and the TACI-L protein of (ii).
22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein step (b) comprises determining a dissociation constant of the interaction of the protein of (i) TACI with the protein of (ii) TACI-L.
23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein step (b) comprises assessing activation of the protein of (i) TACI in a cell.
24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein assessing activation of the protein of (i) TACI in a cell is measured by calcium influx.
25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the protein of (ii) TACI-L is an soluble extracellular domain. TACI-L.
26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the soluble extracellular domain TACI-L further comprises a leucine zipper domain.
27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the TACI protein of (i) is soluble an extracellular domain. TACI.
28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the soluble extracellular domain further comprises a Fc domain. TACI is TACI-Fc.

29. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI L, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) a TACI protein, wherein said TACI protein comprises a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (b) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; wherein said fragments binds SEQ ID NO:4TACI L;
 - (ii) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; and
 - (iii) a the test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the TACI protein polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 the TACI L protein;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 TACI protein and the TACI L protein is identified.

30. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI L, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (ii) TACI L a protein, wherein said TACI L protein comprises a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; and
 - (b) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; wherein said fragments binds TACI L SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (iii) a the test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2TACI protein and the TACI L protein polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 or a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 TACI protein and the TACI L protein polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 or a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 is identified.

31. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L~~, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragments binds ~~TACI-L~~ SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (ii) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said fragments binds ~~TACI~~ the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (iii) the a test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of ~~the TACI protein~~ a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and ~~the TACI-L protein~~ a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, the TACI protein and a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 ~~the TACI-L protein~~ is identified.

32. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L~~, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (ii) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; and
 - (iii) a the test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 TACI protein and the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 TACI-L protein;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 TACI protein and the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 TACI-L protein is identified.

33. (Previously added) The method of claim 31, wherein the fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 is amino acids 1-166 of SEQ ID NO:2.

34. (Previously added) The method of claim 31, wherein the fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 is amino acids 73-285 of SEQ ID NO:4.